

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A process for preparing a carrier for use in the preparation of powdery mixtures for the administration by inhalation of micronized drugs, said carrier comprising a plurality of particles, ~~wherein said plurality of particles has a median diameter greater than 90 micron and a surface rugosity expressed as the fractal dimension of less than or equal to 1.1,~~ said process comprising:

subjecting ~~the~~ a first plurality of un-agglomerated particles having a median diameter of greater than 90 ~~micron~~ µm and a surface rugosity expressed as the fractal dimension of greater than 1.1 to repeated stages of wetting with a solvent and drying in a high-speed granulator, ~~and~~

wherein said solvent is a short-chain aliphatic alcohol or a water and alcohol mixture, to obtain a second plurality of un-agglomerated particles having a median diameter greater than 90 µm and a surface rugosity expressed as the fractal dimension of less than or equal to 1.1.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 22, wherein said second plurality of particles has a median diameter of from 90 to 150 micron.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 22, wherein said second plurality of particles has a surface rugosity of from 1.0 to 1.1.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 22, wherein the carrier particles are made of a physiologically acceptable inert material selected from the group consisting of glucose, mannose, galactose, sorbitol, mannitol, lactose, saccharose, trahalose, raffinose, cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 22, wherein a carrier free from fine particles is obtained.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 22, wherein said high-speed granulator comprises a cylindrical mixing chamber comprising a rotating paddle and a sprayer, and

wherein said high-speed granulator is capable of operating at controlled temperature and pressure.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 27, wherein the high-speed granulator is a Roto J. Zanchetta or a Diosna apparatus.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 27, wherein the total mixing time during the repeated stages of wetting and drying is from 120 to 300 minutes.

Claim 30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 22, wherein the solvent is a water-alcohol mixture and the ratio between the water and alcohol is from 9:3 to 3:4 v/v.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 23, wherein said second plurality of particles has a surface rugosity of from 1.0 to 1.1.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 28, wherein the total mixing time during the repeated stages of wetting and drying is from 120 to 300 minutes.